CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method in a data processing system for controlling the transfer of data from the data processing system to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a file list of one or more data files to be controlled;

creating a process list for each data file in the file list, wherein each process list identifies one or more processes executing in the data processing system that has accessed the data file associated with the created process list;

receiving a request from a requesting process executing in the data processing system to transfer data from the data processing system to the network;

determining if the requesting process is identified in one or more created process lists; and

if the requesting process is identified in a created process list, prohibiting the requested transfer of data from the data processing system to the network.

2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of creating a process list includes adding a first process to a process list when the first process receives data from a second process identified on the process list.

3.   The method according to claim 2, wherein the first process is only added to the process list when the received data is related to the process list's associated data file.

4.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of receiving includes receiving a request from a requesting process executing in the data processing system

to transfer a data file listed in the file list from the data processing system to the network.

5.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of requesting authorization to perform the requested transfer of data from the data processing system to the network.

6.   The method according to claim 5, wherein the step of requesting includes sending a message to a user of the data processing system displayed in a graphical user interface.

7.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing the prohibited transfer of data from the data processing system to the network upon receipt of authorization to make the transfer of data.

8.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the authorization is a command received from a user of the data processing system.

9.　　A data processing system for controlling the transfer of data from a data processing system to a network comprising:

means for creating a file list of one or more data files to be controlled;

means for creating a process list for each data file in the file list, wherein each process list identifies one or more processes executing in the data processing system that has accessed the data file associated with the created process list;

means for receiving a request from a requesting process executing in the data processing system to transfer data from the data processing system to the network;

means for determining if the requesting process is identified in one or more created process lists; and

means for, if the requesting process is identified in a created process list, prohibiting the requested transfer of data from the data processing system to the network.

10.　　The data processing system according to claim 9, wherein the means for creating a process list includes adding a first process to a process list when the first process receives data from a second process identified on the process list.

11.　　The data processing system according to claim 10, wherein the first process is only added to the process list when the received data is related to the process list's associated data file.

12.　　The data processing system according to claim 9, wherein the means for receiving includes receiving a request from a requesting process executing in the data processing system to transfer a data file listed in the file list from the data processing system to the network.

13.   The data processing system according to claim 9, further comprising means for requesting authorization to perform the requested transfer of data from the data processing system to the network.

14.   The data processing system according to claim 13, wherein the means for requesting includes sending a message to a user of the data processing system displayed in a graphical user interface.

15.   The data processing system according to claim 9, further comprising means for performing the prohibited transfer of data from the data processing system to the network upon receipt of authorization to make the transfer of data.

16.   The data processing system according to claim 15, wherein the authorization is a command received from a user of the data processing system.

17.   An article of manufacture comprising machine-readable medium including program logic embedded therein that causes control circuitry in a data processing system for controlling the transfer of data from a data processing system to a network to perform the steps of:

creating a file list of one or more data files to be controlled;

creating a process list for each data file in the file list, wherein each process list identifies one or more processes executing in the data processing system that has accessed the data file associated with the created process list;

receiving a request from a requesting process executing in the data processing system to transfer data from the data processing system to the network;

determining if the requesting process is identified in one or more created process lists; and

if the requesting process is identified in a created process list, prohibiting the requested transfer of data from the data processing system to the network.

18.   The article of manufacture of Claim 17, wherein the step of creating a process list includes adding a first process to a process list when the first process receives data from a second process identified on the process list.

19.   The article of manufacture of Claim 18, wherein the first process is only added to the process list when the received data is related to the process list's associated data file.

20.   The article of manufacture of Claim 17, wherein the step of receiving includes receiving a request from a requesting process executing in the data processing system to transfer a data file listed in the file list from the data processing system to the network.

21.   The article of manufacture of Claim 17, further comprising the step of requesting authorization to perform the requested transfer of data from the data processing system to the network.

22.   The article of manufacture of Claim 21, wherein the step of requesting includes sending a message to a user of the data processing system displayed in a graphical user interface.

23.   The article of manufacture of Claim 17, further comprising the step of performing the prohibited transfer of data from the data processing system to the network upon receipt of authorization to make the transfer of data.

24.   The article of manufacture of Claim 23, wherein the authorization is a command received from a user of the data processing system.